

155 Avenida Drive
Berkeley, CA 94708

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July 20, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear FDA,

Re: Docket No. 99D-0557

I am writing to let you know that I am **against any** xenotransplant research.

Responsible health authorities would ban all xenotransplants outright, regardless of the species, because of the threats of inter-species virus transmission. Pigs are being considered as the source animal of choice for xenotransplants. There is, however, no evidence that pigs are any safer than nonhuman primates. Pig viruses are just as dangerous as nonhuman primate viruses.

The United States should follow Europe's lead. In January of this year the Council of Europe, representing 40 European countries, recommended a world-wide ban on xenotransplants.

There are safer and more humane alternatives to xenotransplantation, such as aggressively promoting preventive medicine and increasing human organ donation rates.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Traude Buckland

(Mrs. Traude Buckland)

99D-0557

C251



Traude Buckland
155 Avenida Dr
Berkeley, CA 94708-2124



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